

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A control apparatus, comprising:
a controller which can be pressed and operated;
a detecting device for outputting an analog signal corresponding to the pressing operation of said controller;
a level segmenting unit for segmenting the analog signal output by said detecting device into one of a plurality of levels;
an A/D converting unit for converting the segmented analog signal into a digital signal in accordance with the one of the plurality of levels; and
a segmenting-range setting unit coupled to said level segmenting unit for calibrating a range associated with the plurality of levels into which the analog signal is segmented by said level segmenting unit, the range changing in response to the pressing operation of said controller.

2. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a switch for providing the digital signal with a plurality of bits or a single bit, said switch being connected to said A/D converting unit.

3. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said segmenting-range setting unit comprises a storing unit, and
the plurality of levels are stored in said storing unit.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a controller including;
an actuating member which can be pressed and operated;

a detecting device for outputting an analog signal corresponding to the pressing operation of said actuating member;

a level segmenting unit for segmenting the analog signal output by said detecting device into one of a plurality of levels;

an A/D converting unit for converting the segmented analog signal into a digital signal in accordance with the one of the plurality of levels; and

a segmenting-range setting unit for calibrating the range over which said level segmenting unit segments the analog output signal into one of the plurality of levels in response to the pressing operation; and

an entertainment device having a storing unit for storing the plurality of levels.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

said segmenting-range setting unit is a volume device that is inserted in a power line to which said detecting device is connected for use in determining the range of output levels.

6. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said segmenting-range setting unit comprises:

a volume device that is inserted in a power line to which said detecting device is connected for providing a first voltage level;

a storing unit for storing a limit value of the range of the output levels of the analog signal; and

a comparator for comparing the first voltage level with the limit value,

wherein said comparator outputs the range of output levels to said level segmenting unit when the first voltage level is

within the limit value, and outputs the limit value to said level segmenting unit when the first voltage level is over said limit value.

7. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a projection which is formed at a bottom of said controller, and an elastic body having a concave portion which engages with and supports said projection, wherein said detecting device is pressed due to deformation of said elastic body.

8. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a first flat surface which is formed at a bottom of said controller, and an elastic body having a second flat surface which engages with and supports said first flat surface, wherein said detecting device is pressed due to deformation of said elastic body.

9. (original) An apparatus according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein said detecting device comprises an internal board.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a switch;

a digital switch serving as an ON/OFF switch provided in said controller; and

a digital signal generating unit for outputting a single bit digital signal, said digital signal generating unit being connected to said digital switch,

wherein said switch provides either the digital signal or the single bit digital signal.

11. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

an elastic body which engages with and supports a bottom of said controller;

a first sheet member and a second sheet member; and

first and second fixed terminals provided in said digital switch which are pressed due to deformation of said elastic body and which are provided on one side of said first sheet member,

wherein said detecting device is provided on one side of said second sheet member at portions corresponding to said first and second fixed terminals.

12. (original) An apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein said second sheet member is an internal board.

13. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

an elastic body which engages with and supports a bottom of said controller; and

first and second fixed terminals provided in said digital switch which are pressed due to deformation of said elastic body and which are provided on one side of said sheet member,

wherein said detecting device is provided on the other side of said sheet member at portions corresponding to said first and second fixed terminals.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said controller is pressed and operated by a pressure which is preset and an output level of the analog signal which is output by said detecting device during the pressing operation of said controller is stored in said storing unit.

15. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the segmenting range setting unit adjusts the plurality of levels in response to detecting a change in the range of output levels.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for adjusting a signal output of a control apparatus having a pressure sensitive device, the method comprising:

detecting an analog signal corresponding to a load exerted on the pressure sensitive device;

establishing a range between an upper signal level and a lower signal level of the detected analog signal; and

calibrating the range in response to the load exerted on the pressure sensitive device; and

segmenting the detected analog signal into a plurality of signal levels within the ~~established~~calibrated range, whereby the signal output of the control apparatus is adjusted.

19. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising storing the detected analog signal in a memory storing unit.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein the storing step includes storing the detected analog signal in a detachable memory card.